

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 03363 300737Z

ACTION DOE-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02

DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 /114 W

-----010822 300740Z /13

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7585

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 03363

DEPT PLEASE PASS DOE: G. HELFRICH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, TW

SUBJECT: RETURN OF U.S.-ORIGIN PLUTONIUM TO U.S.

REFS: (A) TAIPEI 03339, (B) STATE 133930,

(C) STATE 132586

1. GROC DELIVERED REFERENCE MATERIAL TO PIER 17, KEELUNG, AT 0930H MONDAY, 29 MAY 1978. EMBOFF SIMMONS AND MSC COMMANDING OFFICER, LTC TRADER, VERIFIED THAT IAEA SEALS ON STANDARD SHIPPING CONTAINER WERE INTACT. FOLLOWING VERIFICATION, EMBOFF SIGNED A RECEIPT FROM THE ROC INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH (INER) THAT WAS WITNESSED BY MR. MAO CHIAO OF ROC ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL AND MR. PETER CHANG OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. RECEIPT STATED AS FOLLOWS: "ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE UNDER-SIGNED RECEIVES ON THIS DAY MAY 29, 1978 FROM THE INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH, REPUBLIC OF CHINA, A USA-DOT-6M TYPE B CONTAINER FOR FISSILE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL S/N#500 CERTIFIED BY C. C. OU-YANG AS CONTAINING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 03363 300737Z

983 GRAMS OF PUO2 COMPRISING 863 GRAMS PLUTONIUM ELEMENT WITH 729 GRAMS IN FISSILE ISOTOPES. THE CONTAINER HAS BEEN SEALED BY IAEA INSPECTORS AND THE TWO SEALS ARE GOOD AND INTACT."

3. MATERIAL WAS SAFELY LOADED ONTO THE S.S. AMERICAN CHARGER BY 1200H AND WAS STOWED IN THE SHIP'S HOSPITAL

UNDER LOCK AND KEY. CAPTAIN HERRICK AND FIRST MATE SUCHER WERE BRIEFED ON THE CONTENTS OF THE CARGO, THE NEED TO KEEP IT SECURE DURING SHIPMENT (ESPECIALLY WHEN IN PORT) AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING TO MSC HQS ON AN IMMEDIATE BASIS ANY CASES OF TAMPERING OR DAMAGE DURING SHIPMENT. CAPTAIN AND FIRST MATE UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS. FIRST MATE PROVIDED SIGNED COPY OF THE SHIPPING PAPERS TO EMBOFF. COPIES WILL BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON SOONEST.

4. AT 1830H EMBOFF WAS ADVISED THAT THE S.S. AMERICAN CHARGER CLEARED KEELUNG PORT AND WILL RETURN TO THE U.S. ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE: ETA SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES 2 JUNE 1978, ETA GUAM 11 JUNE 1978, ETA PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 21 JUNE 1978, AND ETA OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 30 JUNE 1978.

5. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SPECIAL MENTION OF ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DALE HARDER, CO OF LOCAL MSC, AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF, WHO OVERCAME NUMEROUS OBSTACLES IN A VERY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME OVER THE THREE-DAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND TO MAKE SHIPMENT OF REF MATERIAL POSSIBLE. WITHOUT HIS ASSISTANCE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SHIPMENT COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE AS ORDERED. UNGER

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